

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01975 182312Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03 AID-05 MCE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 SS-15 OMB-01 HA-05
/063 W

-----080917 192100Z /45

R 181630Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1387
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USDAO KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1975

FOR DOD/ISAA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, GB
SUBJECT: FY 1978 FMS FINANCING FOR GABON

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 1324 DTG 021432Z JUN 78
(B) STATE 133529 (NOTAL) (C) STATE 178544 (NOTAL)
(D) STATE 120316 (E) STATE 111533 (F) STATE 012271

1. NOW THAT BULK OF FMS ARREARAGES HAVE BEEN CLEARED UP
(REFTEL C), AND IN ANTICIPATION THAT GABONESE WILL
EXPEDITIOUSLY ESTABLISH MECHANISM FOR PAYING CURRENTLY
DUE AND FUTURE PAYMENTS, WE HOPE THAT WE CAN MOVE
RAPIDLY TO PROCESS FY 1978 FMS LOAN FOR GABON IN ORDER
TO HAVE IT TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE FY END GETS MUCH CLOSER.

2. PER REFTEL A, WE HAVE ON FILE LETTER TO AMBASSADOR
SIGNED BY PRESIDENT BONGO REQUESTING FMS FINANCING AND
STATING DESIRE TO HAVE LOAN APPLIED TOWARD PURCHASE
ONE MODEL 212 BELL HELICOPTER AND ONE MODEL 222 BELL
HELICOPTER. WE HAVE NO IDEA HERE OF PRICING AND
THEREFORE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER DOLS 2 MILLION WILL
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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01975 182312Z

COVER PURCHASE OF BOTH OR WHETHER THERE WILL BE
ANYTHING LEFT OVER THAT GABONSE CAN APPLY TO SOMETHING
ELSE.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING ASAP
(1) WHETHER, FOLLOWING SETTLEMENT OF MOST OF
ARREARAGES, WE CAN NOW PROCEED TO FY 78 CREDIT, AND

(2) IF SO, WHAT NEXT MOVES ARE AND PARTICULARLY, WHAT IS NECESSARY FROM HERE.

4. WITH TIME GROWING SHORT, WE HOPE THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES INVOLVED WILL ACT PROMPTLY TO EXECUTE THIRD TRANCHE OF FMS CREDIT. AS DEPT KNOWS, PRESIDENT BONGO IS VERY INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING HELICOPTERS AND HAS MENTIONED SUBJECT TO ME SEVERAL TIMES. HISTORY OF ARREARAGE PAYMENTS HAS BEEN PAINFUL, BUT I HAVE BEEN CONVINCED SINCE BEGINNING THAT PROBLEMS DID NOT RPT NOT STEM FROM ANY LACK OF GOOD INTENTIONS ON PART OF GABONESE, AND PARTICULARLY NOT ON PART OF BONGO HIMSELF. MOREOVER, IT HAS OF COURSE BEEN NECESSARY FOR US TO TELL GABONESE THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF HELICOPTERS UNTIL ARREARAGES WERE SETTLED. ONCE THIS WAS DONE, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT WILL UNQUESTIONABLY FEEL THAT WAY IS NOW CLEAR FOR HIM TO ACQUIRE HELICOPTERS HE WANTS. TIENKEN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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